Nedzi, Harrington off Unit

Rep. Pike Named to Chair Reshaped Intelligence Panel

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By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) was named chairman of the House intelligence committee yesterday after it was reconstituted to end the stalemate created by Democratic bickering.

The House by voice vote adopted a resolution abolishing the 10-member committee set up in February and creating a 13-member committee with the same mandate: to investigate charges of illegal activities by various government intelligence agencies.

Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) then named the new committee and, as expected, omitted former Chairman Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.) and former member Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.).

The stalemate had arisen out of complaints by committee Democrats that Nedzi as chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence had known of illegal acts by the Central Intelligence Agency and failed to reveal them to Congress or to act on them. The House had refused to accept Nedzi's resignation from the new committee's chair, and he refused to function as chairman.

Harrington had been the CIA's severest critic and also from the start had questioned Nedzi's ability to conduct an objective inquiry because of his previous role as CIA overseer for the House.

Also, Harrington has been accused of breaking rules and a signed pledge by rtleasing classified information from Armed Services Committee files about CIA operations in Chile.

Nedzi got into trouble for keeping alleged illegal CIA acts to himself; Harrington, for releasing them.

The eight other members of the old committee were reappointed. New members besides Pike are Reps. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), Dale Milford (D-Tex.), Philip Hayes (D-Ind.), and James P. Johnson (R-Colo.).

Pike, 53, has been a member of the House from the eastern end of Long Island for nearly 15 years. He is a lawyer, conducted the house inquiry into the seizure of the spy ship Pueblo, and has been a critic of excess military spending while on the Armed Services Committee.

Most of yesterday's debate consisted of an unsuccessful attempt by liberals to help Harrington remain on the committee. Their amendment permitting all members of the old committee to serve on the new unit if they wished was defeated, 274 to 119, with an unusually large 24 members voting "present."

Some members protested that it was unfair to offer the amendment because a vote either way could be construed as prejudging the charge of improper action against Harrington, which is pending before the House ethics committee.

The House also rejected a string of amendments to simply drop the inquiry, try to convert it into a joint House-Senate inquiry, reduce the size of the committee to lessen the chance of leaks, and limit its inquiry to the CIA and FBI.

The committee was directed to complete its inquiry and file a report by next Jan. 31.